

Division Achievement Award

Firefighter Robert McCaa

On February 16, 2011, at 3:10 p.m., Medic 17, manned by Firefighter/Paramedic Robert (Bob) McCaa, was dispatched along with Ambulance 179 and Carroll County Paramedic 109 for a subject with chest pains in the vicinity of Unionville Road. Medic 17 responded immediately, but Ambulance 179's response was delayed due to a previous call. Carroll County's Paramedic 109 was faced with a long response time, which meant that Firefighter McCaa would be the first provider on the scene. Arriving at the location, he found a 69-year-old male who had been complaining of chest and back pain for the previously two hours. As Firefighter McCaa completed his assessment, the patient suddenly seized and collapsed on the floor in full cardio-pulmonary arrest. With other family members providing CPR, he immediately requested additional assistance and placed the patient on a cardiac monitor. The monitor revealed that the patient was in ventricular fibrillation, which is a fatal cardiac rhythm. After two electrical shocks with the cardiac defibrillator, the patient suddenly regained a pulse and began breathing on his own. Just as the patient regained consciousness, both Ambulance 179 and Carroll County Paramedic 109 arrived. The patient was transported to Frederick Memorial Hospital's Cardiac Catheterization Lab, where he was treated and subsequently made a full recovery.

Firefighter McCaa attended the patient for more than 10 minutes that day without any other trained medical professionals on the scene to assist him. Because of his knowledge, training, and quick response, Firefighter McCaa is being honored today with the Division Achievement Award.

Congratulations Bob!